

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A radio for receiving, with substantially equal convenience, broadcasts
2 from both local radio stations and from the world wide web, comprising:
3 a visual display for providing information to a user;
4 tuner circuitry for receiving radio frequency signals from radio broadcast
5 stations;
6 one or more audio amplifiers;
7 one or more loudspeakers operably connected to said audio amplifiers;
8 a modem for transmitting and receiving digital data over a communications
9 network;
10 a data storage device; and
11 a software program stored on said data storage device, said software
12 program configured to use said modem to connect to an Internet service provider
13 to receive digitized audio broadcasts from said Internet service provider, said
14 program further configured to provide a select broadcast display to allow the user
15 to selectably connect a program broadcast to the input of said one or more audio
16 amplifiers either from a local AM or FM radio station or from the world wide Web
17 so that to the user, reception of a broadcast from the world wide Web is no more
18 complicated than listening to a local FM or AM radio station.
- 1 2. A method for providing, with substantially equal convenience, access to
2 audio broadcasts over the world wide Web and access to broadcasts from local radio
3 stations, comprising the steps of:
4 using a modem for transmitting and receiving digital data over a
5 communications network to an Internet service provider;
6 using a radio tuner to receive audio broadcasts from local radio stations;
7 and
8 providing a stored software program for allowing selection of a Web
9 broadcast with substantially the same controls and convenience as selecting a local
10 radio broadcast.

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1 3. The method of Claim 2, wherein said local radio stations are FM broadcast
2 radio stations.

1 4. The method of Claim 2, wherein said local radio stations are AM broadcast
2 radio stations.

1 5. A self-contained intelligent radio for receiving audio broadcasts over the
2 world wide Web, comprising:

3 a visual display for providing information to a user;
4 a modem for transmitting and receiving digital data over a communications
5 network;

6 a data storage device;

7 one or more loudspeakers; and

8 a software program stored on said data storage device, said software
9 program configured to use said modem to connect to an Internet service provider,
10 receive digitized audio broadcasts from said Internet service provider, and play
11 said audio broadcasts on said speakers, said software further configured to
12 provide: a menu display that allows the user to select a command; a select
13 language display that allows the user to specify a desired language; a program
14 material display to allow the user to select a type of program material; and a select
15 broadcast display to allow the user to select a program broadcast.

1 6. A self-contained intelligent radio for receiving audio broadcasts over the
2 world wide Web, comprising:

3 a visual display for providing information to a user;

4 a network interface for transmitting and receiving digital data over a
5 communications network;

6 a data storage device; and

7 a software program stored on said data storage device, said software
8 program configured to use said network interface to connect to an Internet service
9 provider, and receive digitized audio broadcasts from said Internet service
10 provider.

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- 1 7. The self-contained intelligent radio of Claim 6, wherein said software
2 program is upgraded by downloading data over said communications network.
- 1 8. The self-contained intelligent radio of Claim 6, further comprising one or
2 more loudspeakers.
- 1 9. The self-contained intelligent radio of Claim 6, wherein said
2 communications network is a telephone network.
- 1 10. The self-contained intelligent radio of Claim 6, wherein said
2 communications network is a satellite network.
- 1 11. The self-contained intelligent radio of Claim 6, wherein said
2 communications network is a cable television network.
- 1 12. The self-contained intelligent radio of Claim 6, further comprising a
2 transmitter configured to transmit audio information using a transmission carrier.
- 1 13. The self-contained intelligent radio of Claim 12, wherein said transmission
2 carrier is a radio frequency carrier.
- 1 14. The self-contained intelligent radio of Claim 12, wherein said transmission
2 carrier is an infrared carrier.
- 1 15. The self-contained intelligent radio of Claim 12, wherein said transmission
2 carrier is a spread-spectrum carrier.
- 1 16. The self-contained intelligent radio of Claim 12, further comprising a
2 receiver for receiving audio information transmitted by said intelligent radio.
- 1 17. The self-contained intelligent radio of Claim 6, wherein said software is
2 configured to provide a menu display that allows the user to select a command.
- 1 18. The self-contained intelligent radio of Claim 6, wherein said software is
2 configured to provide a select language display that allows the user to specify a desired
3 language.
- 1 19. The self-contained intelligent radio of Claim 6, wherein said software is
2 configured to provide a program material display to allow the user to select a type of
3 program material.

1 20. The self-contained intelligent radio of Claim 6, wherein said software is
2 configured to provide a select broadcast display to allow the user to select a program
3 broadcast.

1 21. The self-contained intelligent radio of Claim 6, wherein said software is
2 configured to provide a data-entry display to allow the user to input alpha-numeric text.

1 22. The self-contained intelligent radio of Claim 6, wherein said software is
2 provided as firmware.

1 23. The self-contained intelligent radio of Claim 22, wherein said software is
2 stored in non-volatile semiconductor memory.

1 24. The self-contained intelligent radio of Claim 6, further comprising a
2 display and a plurality of user controls.

1 25. The self-contained intelligent radio of Claim 24, wherein said user
2 controls include at least one tuning knob, said tuning knob configured to select a Web
3 radio broadcast.

1 26. The self-contained intelligent radio of Claim 24, wherein said user
2 controls are configured to allow the user to operate the intelligent radio in a manner that is
3 similar to the operation of a conventional radio.

1 27. The self-contained intelligent radio of Claim 24, wherein said display and
2 one or more of said user controls are mounted on a front panel of said intelligent radio.

1 28. The self-contained intelligent radio of Claim 6, wherein said network
2 interface comprises a telephone modem.

1 29. The self-contained intelligent radio of Claim 6, wherein said network
2 interface comprises a cable modem.

1 30. The self-contained intelligent radio of Claim 6, wherein said network
2 interface comprises a satellite modem.

1 31. The self-contained intelligent radio of Claim 6, wherein said network
2 interface comprises a transceiver.

1 32. The self-contained intelligent radio of Claim 31, wherein said transceiver
2 comprises a spread-spectrum transceiver.

1 33. The self-contained intelligent radio of Claim 6, further comprising a
2 voicemodem.

1 34. The self-contained intelligent radio of Claim 33, wherein said intelligent
2 radio is configured to provide an Internet telephone mode.

1 35. An intelligent radio apparatus comprising:
2 a processor operatively coupled to a computer network; and
3 software loaded into a memory operatively coupled to said processor,
4 software configured to:

5 provide a list of streaming audio programs for an intelligent radio;
6 provide access to said streaming audio programs; and
7 provide information formatted for a display in said intelligent
8 radio.

1 36. The apparatus of Claim 35, said software further configured to provide
2 Internet telephone service to said intelligent radio.

1 37. The apparatus of Claim 35, said software further configured to provide
2 voicemail to said intelligent radio.

1 38. The apparatus of Claim 35, wherein said list of streaming audio programs
2 comprises a customized list.

1 39. The apparatus of Claim 35, wherein said display has a display area less
2 than twenty-five square inches.

1 40. The apparatus of Claim 35, said software further configured to download
2 software modules into a memory in said intelligent radio.

1 41. The apparatus of Claim 35, wherein said processor is a digital signal
2 processor.

42. The apparatus of Claim 35, wherein said software is further configured to communicate with service routines running on a computer connected to said computer network.

1 43. The apparatus of Claim 43, wherein said service routines provide added
2 functionality to said software.

1 44. The apparatus of Claim 44, wherein said added functionality comprises
2 voice command recognition.

1 45. The apparatus of Claim 45, wherein said added functionality comprises
2 data conversion.

1 46. The apparatus of Claim 45, wherein said added functionality comprises the
2 ability to convert text messages into voice messages.

1 47. The apparatus of Claim 45, wherein said added functionality comprises the
2 ability to convert voice messages into text messages.

1 48. The apparatus of Claim 45, wherein said added functionality comprises
2 formatting a display screen.

1 49. The apparatus of Claim 35, wherein said software is further configured to
2 provide voice-activated commands.